under ITEC programme of MEA signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

2. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation and assistance in the field of low housing signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997. An exhibition on low housing technology to be arranged in Trinidad & Tobago and transfer of technology in low cost housing.

3. Two Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation for the development of small scale industries in Trinidad & Tobago and provision of training to their personnel signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

4. Trade agreement to consolidate, strengthen and diversify trade relations between the two countries on the basis of Most Favoured Nation treatment signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

5. A Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries to review all aspects of bilateral relations and exchange views on international issues of mutual interest signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

6. Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of agricultural research and training of Trinidad & Tobago personnel at various agricultural institutes and deputation of experts to Trinidad & Tobago signed in New Delhi on 27 January, 1997.

BANGLADESH

1. An Indo-Bangladesh Treaty on Sharing of Ganga Waters was signed on December 12, 1996 which provides a detailed formula for sharing of the water flow during the lean season and more specifically between March 1 and May 10. The Treaty is for 30 years but with provision for mandatory reviews after five year intervals. Either side can also call for a review after two years.

SRI LANKA

1. An Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments was signed between the two countries during the Third Session of the Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission held in Colombo from January 19 to 22, 1997.

2. During the same Joint Commission Meeting, an Agreement was also signed to release the second tranche of US$ 15 million of the line of credit extended to Sri Lanka earlier in January 1996. This credit would be available to Sri Lanka for import of both goods and services from India.

3. The two countries also signed a Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 and also a programme of cooperation in the field of science and technology during the Joint Commission Meeting.

[English]

Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal

343. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal had declared its award during 1979 covering all matters connected with the heights of major dams; Narmada Sagar, Sardar Sarovar etc. has been reopened by the Supreme Court of India;

(b) the present situation in regard to the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam in Gujarat; and

(c) the stipulated height and upto which height, the construction has been completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) In the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319 of 1994 filed in the Supreme Court of India by the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been mentioned as one of the issues for consideration.

(b) and (c) At present, the lowest block level upto which the Sardar Sarover Dam has been raised is EL 81.5 metres against the stipulated full reservoir level of 138.68 metres as per the Award of Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal.

Passport Office, Bangalore

344. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of passports issued during the last three years and as on December 31, 1996;

(c) whether the said office has sufficient staff to clear the workload; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to depute sufficient number of employees in the Passport Office at Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 6,600 Passport applications were pending with the Passport Office at Bangalore on December 31, 1996. Of these, 703 were pending for more than one month.